

Patent claims

1. A method for updating services in communication networks (ISDN, VoIP), particularly in packet-switching networks (VoIP), having communication components (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2) which use and provide the services in the communication network (ISDN, VoIP), with a plurality of communication components (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2)
 - 5 providing an identical software-controlled service, where a communication component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2) ascertains the services provided in the communication network (ISDN, VoIP) by other communication components (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2),
 - 10 where, in cases in which both communication components (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2) provide identical services, the communication components (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2) interchange and compare
 - 15 information about the release of the software controlling the services, and
 - where, in cases in which a different release is established, a software update is initialized.
- 25 2. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the software is sent from the communication component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2) with the more up-to-date release to the communication component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2) with the earlier release.
3. The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the software with the more up-to-date release is sent from a third communication component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2) providing this software to the communication component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11,

C1 - C3, S1, S2) with the earlier release.

4. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3,
characterized

5 in that the comparison regarding the release of the
software controlling the services is repeated at
settable intervals of time.

10 5. A method for updating services in communication
networks (ISDN, VoIP), particularly in packet-switching
networks (VoIP), having communication components
(A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2) which use and
provide the services in the communication network
(ISDN, VoIP), with a plurality of communication
15 components (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2) being
able to provide an identical software-controlled
service,

20 where a first communication component (A1 - A4,
B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2) needs to activate a service
in a second communication component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11,
C1 - C3, S1, S2),
where, in cases in which this service cannot be
provided by the software on the second communication
component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2), this
25 service becomes available as a result of a software
update on the second communication component (A1 - A4,
B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2).

30 6. The method as claimed in claim 5,
characterized
in that the service is provided by the first
communication component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3,
S1, S2).

35 7. The method as claimed in claim 6,
characterized
in that the software is sent from the first
communication component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3,

S1, S2) to the second communication component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2).

8. The method as claimed in claim 5,
5 characterized
in that the software is sent from a third communication
component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2)
providing this software to the second communication
component (A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2).

10 9. The method as claimed in one of the preceding
claims,
characterized
in that a software update is performed only in the
15 cases in which the software to be transferred can be
executed on the hardware of the communication component
(A1 - A4, B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2) which receives the
software.

20 10. The method as claimed in one of the preceding
claims,
characterized
in that the updated software can be retrieved by
further communication components (A1 - A4, B1 - B11,
25 C1 - C3, S1, S2) and their services.

11. The method as claimed in one of the preceding
claims,
characterized
30 in that at least one communication component (A1 - A4,
B1 - B11, C1 - C3, S1, S2) in the communication network
(ISDN, VoIP) holds software in a respective up-to-date
release ready for retrieval for a plurality of services
of different types.